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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/58/497 (Part I))*]

58/15. Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001 and 57/164 of 18 December 2002 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994 and its tenth anniversary in 2004,

Recognizing that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family constitutes an important opportunity to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to carry out specific programmes within the framework of the objectives of the Year,

Recognizing also that 2004 is to be viewed as a target year by which time concrete achievements will have been produced with respect to identifying and elaborating issues of direct concern to families and mechanisms will have been set up to plan and coordinate activities by the appropriate governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child,

Noting with satisfaction the close collaboration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as its research efforts and preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Appreciating the active role of the regional commissions in the preparatory process of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, particularly in facilitating regional cooperation in that regard,

Recalling that one plenary meeting at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, will be devoted to the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the

Family, building upon the events to be held on 15 May 2004 on the occasion of the International Day of Families,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of Benin to host a regional preparatory conference in Benin in May 2004 in collaboration with the United Nations, within existing resources;

2. *Also welcomes* the decision of the State of Qatar to host an international conference to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in November 2004;

3. *Welcomes* the launching by the Secretary-General of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family on 4 December 2003;

4. *Further welcomes* decisions by members of the international community (Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society) to host events in observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

5. *Encourages* Governments to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective in the planning process;

6. *Recalls its invitation* to all States to set the end of 2003 as a target date for finalizing a programme for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

7. *Also recalls its invitation* to Governments that had not already done so to set up national coordinating committees or similar mechanisms, as appropriate, for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, and invites them, as well as the Governments of countries with existing bodies responsible for preparations and observance, to intensify preparatory measures already under way;

8. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, inter alia, Governments, civil society, including relevant non-governmental organizations, and research and academic institutions, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the livelihood of families;

9. *Encourages* United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions, to work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, inter alia, by sharing experience and findings, in recognition of their valuable role in family policy development at all levels;

10. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, within existing resources, and invites intergovernmental organizations and research and academic institutions to support regional events of the year 2004 to contribute to the success of those events;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To strengthen the programme of work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on family pursuant to the objectives of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in the context of national family-related provisions of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, and in the context of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United

Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] to enhance the unique role of the family in society, in particular through:

(i) The development and strengthening of a family-focused perspective in relevant policies and programmes of United Nations bodies as well as in the follow-up to the outcomes of the relevant United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

(ii) The provision of policy guidance on emerging issues and trends affecting the family, through the preparation of studies and research papers aimed in particular at enhancing the role of the family in society;

(iii) The provision of technical assistance to countries, upon request, to enhance, where appropriate, their national capacities in the area of family-related work;

(*b*) To address family issues, where relevant, in his report on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-second session and a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the preparations for and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at all levels.

68th plenary meeting
3 December 2003

[1] See resolution 55/2.